

Knoxville Weekly Chronicle.

RULE & TARWATER.
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REPUDIATION.

Our Democratic Legislature is fully determined to repudiate a part of our State debt. Our special published yesterday morning informs us that the 100 bonds of the Mineral House Railroad were declared null and void. But to break the force of the disgraceful partisan act, the Senate adds a provision giving to the holders the right to sue in court. But suppose they should sue and recover, how could they enforce the collection of their judgments? An Assembly mean enough to repudiate the written promises of the State to pay, would be mean enough to refuse to provide for the satisfaction of any judgments that might be recovered. The provision giving the holders the right to sue is a solemn mockery, and only adds to the turpitude of the act. The bondholders are first told that, as a State, we refuse to abide by our written obligations, and then, "make us pay if you can." Innocent holders of our bonds are to be compelled to go to the expense and trouble of asserting their rights in court, and then to find that they have judgments which cannot be collected.

We do not know, but it looks very much to us as though the New York World was right in characterizing some of our legislators as "tools" of the Wall street brokers. Whether they are "tools" or not, they are not reflecting any honor upon our State, and the sooner they are supplanted by intelligent and honest men, the better it will be for our people and the country generally.

UNFAIR TO EAST TENNESSEE.

The gerrymandering of the General Assembly has not been confined to redistricting the Judicial Circuits of the State. Our high-minded (?) legislators have been busying their brains lately in trying to reconstruct the Chancery Divisions of East Tennessee, so as to secure partisan Chancellors, and particularly to defeat our able Chancellor, Hon. O. P. Temple. By this new electioneering legislation, the State is divided into twelve Chancery Divisions. Thirty-five counties, including all of East Tennessee, are divided into two divisions, while the remainder of Middle and all of West Tennessee are divided into nine divisions. This division—the second—is composed of the counties of Knox, Sevier, Campbell, Union, Roane, Monroe, Blount, Scott, Morgan, Putnam and Christiana. The last four are counties added to the division. Now, let us compare this division with some over in that paradise of untrifled Democracy—West Tennessee. The county of Shelby, in which is situated the city of Memphis, has two Chancellors and two Chancery Courts. The twelve counties above named have one Chancellor. Knox county, with its very large Chancery business, is equal to two counties, for Chancellor Temple holds four courts here every year, while in the other counties he holds but two. Shelby county is, of course, a large county, and affords a very large business to be settled in the Chancery Courts, but the business is not by any means as great as the business of the twelve counties in this division. We do not suppose the business there transacted is twice greater than the business in Knox county. But look at the unfair manner in which this labor is divided. Chancellor Temple, in order to attend courts in the twelve counties twice a year, must travel by private conveyance about twelve hundred, and by public conveyance about seven hundred miles every year. In addition to traveling this distance he holds twenty-six courts every year, twenty-two of which are held away from home. These courts, including the time going and returning, average nearly one week, and are attended with expenses, outside of traveling expenses, of about two dollars per day. While the two Chancellors at Memphis are holding their courts about one-half, or say three-fourths, of the year, attended with no traveling or hotel expenses, Judge Temple travels about 2,000 miles and holds twenty or more courts, and expends, in the meantime, for his extraordinary expenses, nearly one-half his salary. This is not only true of our Chancellor, but is likewise true of Chancellor Smith, of the First, and Chancellor Trewitt, of the Third Division, with the exception that the latter division is some smaller. We do not know upon what grounds this partisan assembly attempt to defend this kind of legislation, but we know that the honest, reasonable men of East Tennessee will denounce it without reference to party sympathies. While, in some of the wealthier counties of West Tennessee, there may be litigation involving greater landed or monied interests, nevertheless the labor of disposing of chancery or law business in East Tennessee is doubly as responsible and arduous. Justice

is as dear and as much the heritage of our plain, honest East Tennessee mountaineers, as it is of the wealthy planters of West and Middle Tennessee, and they will see to it, we hope, that legislators are hereafter sent to Nashville, who will respect and recognize such rights. As we said a few days ago, the county of Shelby, including its law and criminal Judges, and its Chancellors, has as many Judicial officers as all of East Tennessee. This is unjust and unfair. It is unfair in any way we look at it. It is the fruits of the legislation of this present notoriously incompetent and partisan Assembly. Shelby county is the heart of the untrifled Democracy of the State, and can have just such legislation as it demands.

While we have but one week of our Circuit Court in Knoxville, which is not sufficient time to give the prisoners in our jail a speedy trial, not to say anything of the hundreds of civil actions pending, Memphis has her three Circuit Courts and three Judges, with courts always in session, affording to her citizen speedy, but deliberate, trials for all their causes. The difference is remarkable, and we ask our people to think over it and demand a remedy. We have had enough such miserable partisan local legislation, and should see to it that we send to Nashville a General Assembly that will legislate for the interests of the whole people, without regard to their politics or location.

AN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WANTED.

We cannot suffer the opportunity afforded by the commencement exercises of our University and the assembling of the Teachers of East Tennessee, to pass, without urging upon them, and the friends of education generally, the necessity of devising some practical method of canvassing and urging upon our legislators and people the great necessity for a general system of education. We do not care to stop now and cavil with any one as to the special features of the system, but we want some kind of a system now. We can well afford to perfect the system in the future when our particular wants are once developed. But we want, and must have, now, some kind of a system which will reach the masses of our people. No real friend of education can fail to see that we are daily losing ground. Our people seem to be too indifferent to this great subject. They are not alive to their interests, and the first important consideration which presents itself is, how can they be reached and aroused.

Our legislators and many of the most influential men in the State seem to be averse to any educational system which breaks down this caste, which seems so securely enthroned in our public affairs. If we can once get the people to interest themselves in the matter, we can soon break down all opposition.

We do not here propose to discuss the merits of the different systems. After we get our thousands and tens of thousands of poor children under the roofs of school houses, with faithful and earnest teachers, we can afford to spend our time in improving and securing a more perfect system. We will now be satisfied with most anything. All we want is to give the people a year or two of the great benefits of a general free school system, and we know they will see to it that those benefits are continued and made greater. We hope to see this matter earnestly discussed, and something practical and prompt result from the meetings now being held in our midst. We hope our citizens will give the proper encouragement by their presence and good counsels.

THE SCHOOL FUND.

The Democracy have had very much to say lately about the Radical school fund corruption. When the General Assembly first met, the Democrats appointed a committee to investigate this whole matter. The committee have made a report, making sweeping charges against the Republican party, but the report does not go far enough. Our Nashville letter, which we publish in to-day's edition of the Weekly, gives a very full and clear statement of this whole matter. In the same connection, we publish to-day a letter from Senator Brownlow, which in its statements, as far as they go, agree entirely with what we have before published. This Tennessee Democracy is a very pure (?) and honest (?) party. The facts show conclusively that they have stolen \$2,700,000, the original principal of the school fund, and yet they charge that the fund was stolen by Republicans. Let the facts be developed fully, gentlemen. Let us know who the guilty parties are, as you are now in authority and have all the opportunities you desire. But we fear we shall not now have such an investigation. Our Assembly are too busy with their legislation in behalf of the Wall street speculators to give any time or attention to developing their old rascalities. But if this Assembly really intends making good its threats to investigate this corruption, let them now do it or forever after hold their peace.

Joshua W. Owen, for killing Felix Coffee recently, at Brentwood, has been bound over to the Circuit Court of Williamson county, in the sum of \$2,500.

The aggregate taxable property of McMinn county, for the year 1870, is \$2,803,220.34.

THE PRESIDENT'S CUBAN MESSAGE.

The Democrats and the few enthusiastic friends of Cuba in the Eastern cities seem to be very much displeased with the President's message on Cuban affairs. We do not think any one at all conversant with the principles of international law will question the force or the wisdom of the President's arguments upon the points involved. We may all have our sympathies with the Cubans struggling for independence, and may wish, and even pray, for their success, but such feelings should not lead us to forget that the President, acting for our Government, must be controlled by well established principles of law to which he is in good faith pledged to adhere. There has not yet been such a force or government organized or maintained by the Cubans as would warrant the Administration in recognizing Cuba as a belligerent power. This is the only question to be determined. Until such a government is maintained by the Cubans they have no right to demand from our Government a recognition as belligerents. The President in his position cannot be governed by his impulses or sympathies; for upon his action in the premises may depend a war with Spain. It may do very well for Mr. Banks and his Cuban friends to talk eloquently of a people nobly struggling for liberty, and of the illiberal and tyrannous policy of Spain; and such appeals may touch the popular heart and provoke the sympathies of our people, but such considerations should have but little influence upon the President and his Cabinet in determining the policy of the Government, when upon that policy depends the peace and welfare of the country.

It has been charged by the personal and political enemies of the President that this message was written by Hon. Caleb Cushing. It would certainly be a compliment to any state paper issued during the last half century to say that it was the product of such an eminent statesman and profound lawyer; for no abler papers than he writes can be produced; but it is enough in answer to this charge to say that Mr. Cushing himself denies it. But we care not who wrote it, for we regard it as a wise and able state paper, and it reflects credit upon the judgment and statesmanship of the President.

REPUDIATION IN TENNESSEE.

The question of repudiation is one on which honorable men everywhere feel sensitive. The State that repudiates its honest obligations receives a stain upon its character which can never be effaced. Honest men very correctly say that a State is just as much bound to comply with its contracts as are individuals. We believe a large majority of the tax-payers of Tennessee are in favor of a strict compliance with all obligations heretofore assumed, and are utterly averse to any policy looking towards a dishonest repudiation of our public debt. He who advocates such a policy incurs the contempt of honest men of all parties. The State that refuses to pay its honest debts cannot, and will not, be trusted. We honor and respect the name of Tennessee. She is our native State. Our whole interest is here. Her prosperity is our chief desire. If she is disgraced, we, as one of her sons, incur to some extent the odium attached to her name.

Having these views, we cannot but be opposed to every movement which, by implication or otherwise, could be construed into an intention on the part of the Legislature to precipitate such a policy upon the people without their consent, and contrary to their wishes.

We have already spoken through these columns of the action of our Legislature in regard to certain railroad bonds. Repudiation has been openly defended and endorsed by the Legislature thus far. The New York World, a Democratic paper, characterizes this matter as a "scheme to swindle the public," brought about by instructions from Wall street brokers to their "tools" in the Tennessee Legislature.

But there is another scheme for repudiation inaugurated by the present Legislature, either designedly or from want of capacity to appreciate the situation, which is to our minds equally as alarming as their action in regard to railroad bonds. We allude to the rates of taxation at present established. The funds realized under present rates will reach about one-half of the receipts of last year. Of this a large amount will be paid in State Bank notes, which will be of little service in meeting the current expenses of the State. The result is that the current funds received will not discharge the expenses of the State Government, to say nothing of the interest on our large bonded debt. The actual expenses of the State not being provided for, what is to be done in reference to the interest on our bonds? Is no provision to be made for the payment of the interest due to our creditors? Under this state of affairs, is not repudiation already inaugurated? No matter how able and honest the Comptroller and Treasurer in charge of our finances may be, (and we are pleased to know they are capable and honest,) what can they do toward discharging our honest obligations without the funds with which to discharge them?

We would rejoice as much as any one to see the heavy burden of taxation made lighter. We would advocate any policy which would reduce taxation, and at the same time provide for the payment of our

debts. We will pursue any legitimate course calculated to relieve tax-payers. But we are opposed to incurring obligations without making provisions to meet them. The man who will impose upon his creditors, by borrowing money without a probability of paying it back, is guilty of downright dishonesty; a State is no less guilty.

The Legislature may not have meant this reduction of taxes as tending in any way towards repudiation. Possibly they may have thought that the rates established would provide for all demands against the State. We would be pleased if such were the case. We trust it may be, but well informed men do not look for it. If our obligations can be met with present rates, we say amen to the action of the Legislature. But what right have we to expect any great falling off in the expenses of the State? The General Assembly remains for a long period engaged in bungling legislation, and we do not look for any reduction from that source. Neither can we expect it from other sources to an extent equal to the reduction of our facilities for meeting expenses. We again say that it may not have been so intended, but it smacks strongly of repudiation.

PARTISAN LEGISLATION.

We have made a calculation of the distance our Judge and Attorney General for this Circuit must travel in order to attend the Courts they are now required to hold. As we have heretofore stated, this present Democratic General Assembly, in order to elect a Judiciary of their own partisan character, have added to this Third Judicial Circuit four new counties—Anderson, Morgan, Fentress and Cumberland. In order to attend all the Courts now in the Circuit, our Judge and Attorney General would be obliged to travel, each year, over seven hundred miles by private conveyance and about three hundred miles by railroad and steamboat. This is a severe tax upon them both physically and financially, and more than ought to be required of any men with the amount of business this Circuit affords. East Tennessee, with its limited facilities for travelling, is cut out by the Legislature into immense Circuits. We have thirty-five counties in East Tennessee divided into four Circuits, or about nine counties to the Circuit, while the other parts of the State where they have much greater facilities for travelling, they have fifty-two counties divided into eleven Circuits, or four counties to the Circuit.

But in East Tennessee, we are Republican and our Judges are of the same persuasion, so we get no favors from the Assembly. But Shelby county—Memphis—where Democracy unadulterated with a single liberal idea is found, has as many Judges as all East Tennessee. This one county of West Tennessee, with a population but twice that of Knox county, has as many Judges in the law Courts alone, as the thirty-five counties embraced in the former Circuits of East Tennessee. These gentlemen Democratic Judges of Middle and West Tennessee, attend their Courts in four counties and draw their salaries regularly, while our East Tennessee Judges have nine counties to look after, ride their seven and ten hundred miles on horseback, and the business of the Courts drag on year after year to the great annoyance and vexation of litigants. In this county we are now embarrassed and perplexed because we can have but one week of Court, when in fact we have business enough for ten weeks. The difference is—and we make this explanation for our readers—that our politics, and the politics of our Judges, don't suit this Assembly. If we lived in the other divisions of the State, we might fare better. Will the honest people of this Circuit not rebuke the set of men who will disregard all their interests and map out new Circuits, to elect partisan Judges? We think they will, and we ask them to remember it in selecting their candidates for the high and honorable position of Judge, Attorney General and Chancellor.

HOW TO ELECT JUDGES.

The Democracy have talked loudly and written fluently against a partisan Judiciary. They have persistently proclaimed against carrying politics into the Judicial election. In East Tennessee, we were told the people had enough of a partisan Judiciary, and in the coming election men, and not party, was to be the test. But hardly have these sounds escaped us before we have a call from "The Executive Committee," requesting the Democracy to meet in convention on the 4th July next, for the purpose of nominating a Judge, Chancellor and Attorney General. What consistency! "The Executive Committee" propose to organize victory or secure defeat. They are the gentlemen to fix up the party ticket. They will nominate our Judges and Chancellors, and then, doubtless, see that they are elected. Well, gentlemen, you are competent to do most anything, we dare say; but, unless we are very much mistaken, you who have determined to make this a political race will find that the people don't take to the lash so kindly. You will fix up your ticket, and the people will fix theirs, and we will see which succeeds.

Clarksville held its first Tobacco Fair on the 15th inst. The project was instituted by the Board of Trade of that town, and was highly successful.

HON. W. L. ADAMS.

This gentleman, we learn, is a candidate for re-election to the position of Circuit Judge in the Fourth Judicial Circuit—a place he has filled in a creditable manner, for several years. He is one of the gentlemen legislated out of office, to make way for a Judiciary not partisan (?) in its character. We have no doubt he will be triumphantly elected, and that those who oppose him on account of his devotion to the government during the late war, will suffer such a rebuke as they deserve. He has the capacity to make a good Judge and the honesty and courage to discharge his duty.

GOV. BROWNLOW AND GEN. MABRY.

It is due to Gov. Brownlow, that we, having been somewhat familiar with the circumstances of Gen. Mabry's first election to the Presidency of the Knoxville and Kentucky Railroad, should dissent from the statement of Col. Baxter, in his letter No. 6, wherein he states that the gentleman succeeded to the Presidency of the road mentioned, through Gov. Brownlow's friendship. As a State Director of the road at that time, appointed by Gov. Brownlow, we know of no appliances being brought to bear for the purpose of securing votes for Mabry. He certainly never intimated to us, that he had any feelings on the subject, and other gentlemen, then in the Board, say that he never attempted to influence them. We think Col. Baxter erred in his statement in this respect.

THE NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL.

The Hon. Amos T. Akerman the successor of Judge Hoar as the Attorney General of the United States has been a prominent lawyer and jurist of the State of Georgia. He is a native of the State of New Hampshire but has resided in Georgia something over twenty years. He was a member of the late Constitutional Convention of that State, and his firmness, ability and prudence did much to bring about changes in the Constitution which are universally conceded to be marked improvements. These changes are more noticeable in the Judiciary article, which is understood to meet the warm approbation of the bar of the State. He is about 55 years old and somewhat resembles in personal appearance Alex. H. Stephens. He is the only representative in the Cabinet from the Southern States south of the Potomac.

In the United States, laboring men are well paid, well-fed, well-clad, and in most of the Northern and Eastern States, have unsurpassed facilities for acquiring a respectable education for their offspring. The consequence is, they are independent, happy, prosperous and contented. By industry and economy, they may acquire wealth, and enjoy, not only the necessities, but the luxuries of life.

In England, the laboring classes are scantily paid, half-fed, half-clad, are ignorant, miserable, and are regarded by their masters as but little better than cattle, being always treated as inferior beings. Free traders, who desire to open up our markets to foreign countries without restrictions, would bring this pauper labor in competition with our American mechanics, and place them in a condition assimilating to that of English laborers. He who opposes protection to our American industries, indirectly favors the reduction of American laborers and mechanics to the same level with those of England and other Eastern countries.

WE HAVE not heard much lately of a practical character from our Board of Trade. We had hoped they would take vigorously hold of some of the measures necessary to encourage the manufacturing and business interests of the city. We do not desire to reflect any upon the gentlemen comprising the Board, but we do think they are not meeting public expectations. We need some such work as they are competent to do, and we have a right to demand it of them. We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that we need to make some efforts very soon, and who can better begin and direct these efforts than our Board of Trade? Gentlemen, let us put our hands to the plow, and work! We will co-operate with you, and do all we can. You represent the capital and business talent of the city, and upon you rests the prosperity of our city.

SENATOR BROWNLOW.

The Athens Post, in speaking of Senator Brownlow's letter published in the CHRONICLE, in reference to the School Fund robbery, has the following, which will be endorsed by all who personally know the Senator:

"We have no hesitation in saying that we never believed the Senator himself was a pecuniary beneficiary in the transaction under reference. We never thought he would steal. So much in a spirit of justice and charity toward a man, who, like ourselves, will soon be done with the trials, struggles, temptations and petty ambitions incident to this lower life."

W. W. Cruze, of Gap Creek, has placed us under obligations for a club of subscribers for the WEEKLY CHRONICLE.

Col. J. C. Parker, of Scott county, also sends us a handsome club for our weekly. Every mail brings large accessions to our list.

Rev. Mr. Wyatt, of Ohio, has accepted a call to the Presbyterian Church, at Kingston.